

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,  
International Harvester Company  
Truck Showroom and Garage  
8 South Main Street  
Dubuque  
Dubuque County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-D

HABS  
IOWA,  
31-DUBU,  
13-D -

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**PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver Colorado 80225

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

# International Harvester Company Truck Showroom and Garage

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Site Location: 8 Main Street  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1A.3  
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SW1/4 S30 T89N R3E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.692140.4706825  
Lot dimensions : 216'x 93': .46 acre  
Lot description: West 1/2 of Lots 8 - 11  
of Block 10 of Dubuque  
Harbor Company Addition

Present Owner: Miller  
Present Usage: vacant  
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 172'x 93'

Orientation : west

Architectural Plan type : 1-story trapezoidal, open-space garage.

Description : Foundation: reinforced concrete perimeter walls and floor slab.

Structure : steel post-and-beam frame with brick masonry bearing walls (front); steel trusses with steel frame walls (garage).

Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond.

Roof : arched monolithic gypsum roof with brick parapet walls and concrete block copings.

Chimneys : steel cylinder interior chimney over furnace in southeast corner.

Openings : painted steel multi-light industrial windows in garage and south side; fixed-sash showcase windows in west front and south side of showroom; single-leaf main entrance with full-light wood door, sidelights and transom enframed by simplified classical revival concrete engaged columns, cornice and pediment; 2 wood sectional garage doors on north side; 1 four-leaf garage door on south side.

Details : cove-molded concrete coping blocks with pedimented corner blocks on parapets, with single soldier course of bricks below; simple pediment in parapet over front entrance.

Construction Date : 1929

Architecture Style: Twentieth Century Functional

Physical History : An outgrowth of Cyrus McCormick's farm machinery business, the International Harvester Company of America was incorporated in Chicago in 1902. The following year, the firm established a warehouse on Dubuque's South Main Street. Located in the B&I Building, a five-story brick block, the company distributed agricultural implements through northeastern Iowa. As reported in a business gazetteer in 1911, "This branch annually supplies agriculturalists, extending over a large strip of territory tributary to Dubuque, with binding twine, harvesting, haying and tillage machinery, motor vehicles, manure spreaders, hay presses, gasoline engines and tractors, wagons, cream separators, threshers and other implements commonly used by the progressive American farmer." That year, International Harvester employed 13 men in its Dubuque facility, with a phalanx of 28 traveling salesmen. About 1925 the company built a two-story brick building two blocks further south on Main to house its showroom, offices and warehouse. In 1929 the company constructed this brick structure across Dodge Street from its existing facility to house a truck showroom and service garage. Scaled and detailed like the earlier building, this single-story structure was organized typically, with a showroom in the southwest corner, behind which were located a spray painting booth and large garage area. A steel post-and beam system supported the roof over the showroom; steel trusses spanned the garage. Though no longer occupied by International Harvester, the building has retained a high degree of architectural integrity.

Significance: This building is historically significant as the local facility for International Harvester - a nationally important agricultural manufacturing firm. Architecturally, the structure is a representative example of the Twentieth Century Functional commercial and industrial structures built in Dubuque's south end business district.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.  
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-16-10-11.  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."  
H.W. Gardner, *Greater Dubuque* (Dubuque: The Times Journal, 1911), page 52.  
H.C. Milversted, "Who's Who in Dubuque. International Harvester Company," *The Town Printer*, April 1947.

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